

## Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)

As a child, Theodore Roosevelt was so sick with asthma and other illnesses that he had to be tutored at home instead of going to school. When he was thirteen, he began an exercise program and eventually became strong and energetic. His enthusiasm for fresh air and exercise lasted the rest of his life.

Born well off, Roosevelt went to Harvard University, then held a number of government positions. He worked as a rancher in the Dakota Territory for two years after his mother and his first wife died. He worked in President McKinley's administration during the Spanish-American War before deciding to join the fight himself. After the war, Roosevelt was elected governor of New York.

Roosevelt became vice president during McKinley's second term. He was made president when McKinley was assassinated in 1901. Roosevelt was just forty-two years old at the time, making him the youngest president in U.S. history.

During his two terms as president, Roosevelt accomplished a lot. He believed people should have a fair, or "square," deal. He tried to break up large business groups that controlled prices, called "trusts." He also managed to raise wages for coal miners. He supported the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act, raising standards for food and medicine. He received the Nobel Peace Prize for his role as mediator in the Russo-Japanese War. He built up the navy and encouraged the building of the Panama Canal on the isthmus of Panama. Roosevelt said it was best to "speak softly and carry a big stick."

Roosevelt also supported the creation of many national parks and forests. Once, while on a hunting trip, Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear cub. A toy maker created the first "Teddy Bear" in honor of Roosevelt.

The White House was a lively place while Roosevelt was in office. He always made time to play with his six adventurous and fun-loving children.



**Read the clues about Theodore Roosevelt and his presidency.  
Then complete the puzzle using the word list on the next page.**

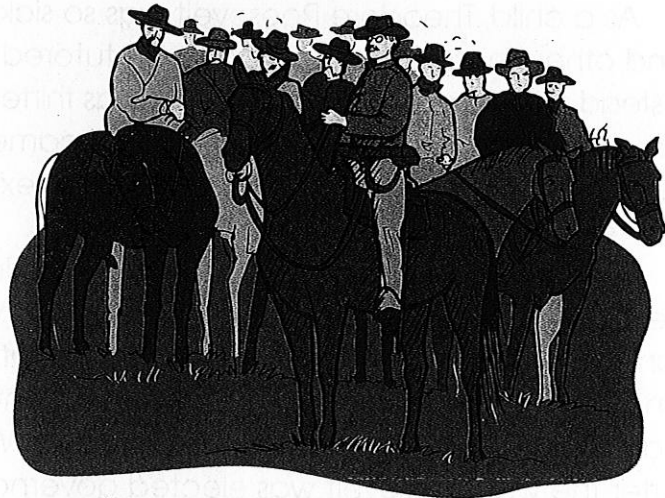
### Across

3. Roosevelt worked for laws that would preserve the wilderness in national parks and \_\_\_\_.
4. Term for the kind of deal Roosevelt promised voters
7. Healthy activity that Roosevelt favored
9. Roosevelt fought in the \_\_\_\_-American War.

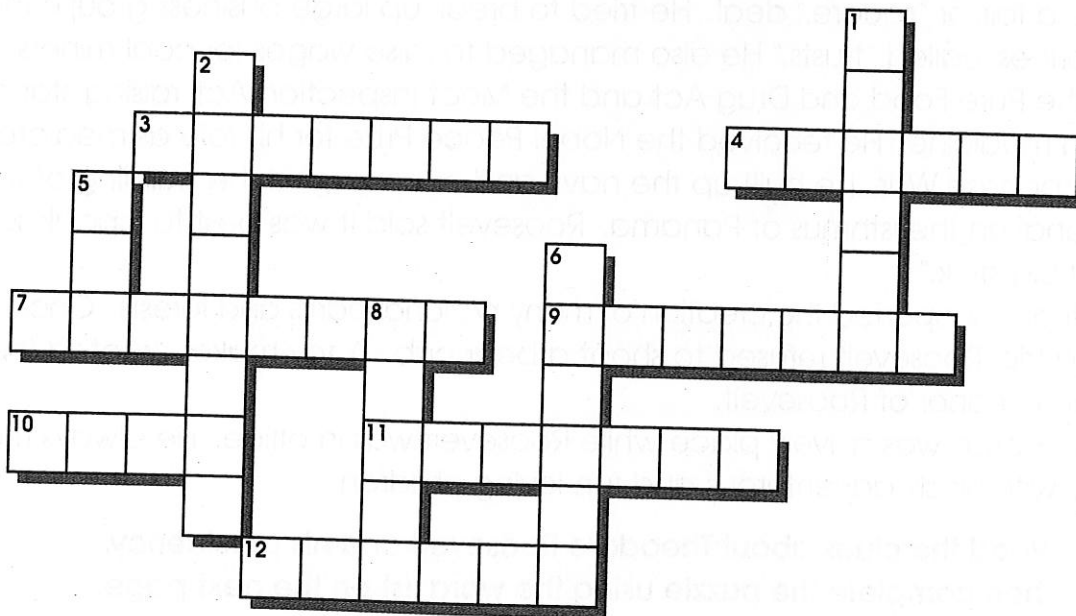
10. Some players of this game were members of the Rough Riders.
11. Narrow land between bodies of water; the Panama Canal was built across one
12. Territory where Roosevelt ranched for two years

## Down

1. Large business combinations that Roosevelt tried to break up
2. Roosevelt was elected to this position after the Spanish-American War.
5. Number of children Roosevelt had
6. Health problem Roosevelt experienced as a child
8. Roosevelt said, "Speak softly and carry a big \_\_\_\_."



*Roosevelt formed the Rough Riders, a cavalry regiment, with friends including cowboys from the west and polo players from the east.*



## Word List

ASTHMA  
DAKOTA  
EXERCISE

FORESTS  
GOVERNOR  
ISTHMUS

POLO  
SIX  
SPANISH

SQUARE  
STICK  
TRUSTS